

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Sylva, North Carolina**

95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers

November 15, 2022

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at Blue Ridge School and Early College, 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
Wes Jamison, Vice Chairperson
Abigail Clayton
Kim Moore
Dr. Lynn Dillard

Also present were Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent; Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Teri Walawender, Human Resources Director; Ashley Leonard, Board Attorney; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Director; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper called the business meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Blue Ridge students Miriam Garcia and Sinai Corona played a flute duet and Christian Alcantar played the piano prior to the start of the meeting. Kheri Cowan, Blue Ridge School Principal, and Dr. Nathan Frizzell, Blue Ridge Early College Principal welcomed everyone. Students from the BREC music class and 4th grade students led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang “America the Beautiful” and “The Pledge of Allegiance.” The board thanked the students for the wonderful music and Scotlyn’s Yard Nursery for the beautiful flowers on the board table.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers recognized Mrs. Catherine DeWeese, SMHS EC teacher, for her selection as the 2022 Exceptional Children Educator of Excellence and presented her with a certificate of recognition.

Dr. Ayers presented a certificate of recognition to Gus Weatherford, JCEC senior, for his selection as the Rotary Club of Sylva Student of the Month for October 2022.

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 25, 2022.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers reported on the following items:

1. I want to begin by giving a shout out to our athletic teams that completed their season and some had opportunities in the playoffs. I am proud of how well these student-athletes and coaches represented JCPS. Winter season has already begun.
2. We are midway through the second quarter of school. I am eager to see the successes of our students as we prepare for End of Course testing at our high schools and confident our students will finish the semester strong.
3. Last week, we honored our 16 JCPS staff that are veterans with a special luncheon. Thank you to Emily Buchanan for taking the lead to organize and decorate along with the assistance of Kelli Bumgarner. Our veterans, many of whom are featured on a digital billboard in town, have a multitude of years of service to our country. I am incredibly grateful for their service to our country and our students!
4. Over the last two weeks we have been struck with illness among students and staff. Filling vacant positions with substitutes is difficult in normal circumstances but we really struggled last week. Perhaps the best decision we made was to close school for a day last week to allow students and staff to recover over a long weekend while we did additional cleaning. Thank you to families and the community who understood our dilemma and supported us. Thankfully, our staff absences have been manageable the past few days.
5. I would also like to address the K9 sweeps that took place on October 31st at some of our campuses. While I know the need for these is not a novel idea, it is necessary. My primary goal is to keep schools safe and that includes drug/substance-free. I appreciate the support of our Jackson County Sheriff's Office who responded to my request and made these K9 sweeps happen. They will continue regularly at our school campuses.
6. As I conclude and especially since we are nearing the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to remind everyone to be gracious. JCPS is growing students, families and our community in a positive manner. Our district has a mindset of gratitude and growth. For that I am proud!
7. Lastly, there is no school for students November 23-25 in recognition of Thanksgiving. Thank you to every JCPS employee, student, family and our community for being YOU!

- B. **Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary
Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of November 15, 2022.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: NC Star School Improvement Plans Approval

Presenter: Mr. Adam Holt, Director of Testing and Accountability

Mr. Holt presented the final reading of the 2022-2023 NC Star School Improvement Plans for the district and nine JCPS schools and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2022-2023 NC Star School Improvement Plans.*

B. Agenda Item: Hello Hero Contract – Agreement Rider

Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented an agreement rider to the Hello Hero Contract for an additional EC Teacher. Mrs. Doppke said that this is due to an EC Teacher being on medical leave. Mrs. Doppke asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agreement Rider to the Hello Hero Contract.*

C. Agenda Item: Field Trips

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. BREC, Grade 8 - Charleston, SC, April 26-29, 2023, TT7957.
2. BREC, Grade 12 - Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL, May 2-5, 2023, TT8007.
3. BRS, Grade 6 - Space Camp, Huntsville, AL, April 11-14, 2023, TT7956.
4. CVES, Grade 3 – Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA Dec. 1, 2022, TT7959.
5. CVES, Grade 7 - Camp Henry, Canton, NC, May 11-12, 2023, TT7980.
6. JCS, Grades 9-12 - Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville, TN, Dec. 5, 2022, TT7955.
7. SMES, Grades 7 and 8 - NCSU, Raleigh, NC, January 20-21, 2023, TT8004.
8. SMHS, Grades 9-12 - New York City, NC, March 16-19, 2023, TT7968.

Dr. Ayers reviewed the above listed field trip requests and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed field trips.*

D. Agenda Item: Purchase of Digital Signs for Smoky Mountain High School

Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the estimate for two new signs for Smoky Mountain High School. One sign will be located at each entrance of the school. Mr. Buchanan said that fundraising at the

school in the amount of \$16,828.14 will be used along with capital funding to purchase the signs and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of two new signs for Smoky Mountain High School.*

E. Agenda Item: Policy Updates

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Updates:

1. Board Member Compensation and Expenses (2130)
2. Online Instruction (3102)
3. Concussion and Head Injury (4270/6145)
4. Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones) (4334/5035/7345)
5. School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards (6230)

Mr. Buchanan presented updates to the policies listed above and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the updates to the policies listed above.*

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

Action: *Upon a motion made by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Dana Ayers. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

Employee Recommendations:

1. Ayres, Chloe – Afterschool Assistant, FES
2. Beam, Michael “Gage” – Afterschool Tutor, SMES
3. Busby, Beau – EC Bus Monitor, CVES
4. Capote-Mata, Alondra – Afterschool Assistant, FES
5. Councilman, Jackson – Technology Technician, Central Office
6. Dupree, Ethan – Field Trip Bus Driver, CVES
7. Ellenburg, Jeremy – Substitute Bus Driver, FES
8. Evans, Kayla – Field Trip Bus Driver, CVES
9. Guillermo, Dominador – Teacher, SMHS
10. Halford, Cassandra – Receptionist, CVES
11. Holden, Josie – Afterschool Tutor, BRS
12. Houtzer, Deb – Afterschool Tutor, BRS
13. Howell, Wendy – Temporary Custodian, FES
14. Hudson, Laura – Afterschool Tutor, SMES
15. Hummer, Suzanne – Afterschool Tutor, SMES
16. Jamison, Charity – Afterschool Tutor, SMES
17. Libby, Jonathan – Bus Driver, FES
18. Lynch, Julie – School Nutrition Assistant - Head Cook, FES
19. Marr, Michelle – Substitute Bus Driver, SMES
20. Mills, Jordan – Custodian for Saturday Youth Football, SMHS

21. Mull, Jim – Bus Driver for Athletics, BREC
22. Stewart, Donna – Afterschool Tutor, BRS
23. Stonesifer, Melissa – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
24. Teem, Allison – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, FES
25. Watkins, Rebekkah – Afterschool Tutor, BRS
26. Watkins, Sue – Afterschool Tutor, BRS

Employee Resignations:

1. Connor, Nancy – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
2. Crisp, Dennis – Lead Bus Driver, SMHS
3. Doolittle, Hannah – Pre-K Teacher, FES
4. Graham, Paul – Custodian and Bus Driver, FES
5. Morgan, Stephen Richad – Mechanic, Bus Garage
6. Portale, Daniel – Teacher, SMES
7. Powell, Jennifer – Teacher Assistant, CVES
8. Stonesifer, Melissa – School Nutrition Assistant, FES

Employee Retirements:

1. Morris, Iris – School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
2. Proffitt, David – Chief Communications Officer, Central Office

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Alcantar, Elena – Head Coach Middle Grades Soccer. BREC – Returning Staff
2. Arnst, April – Assistant Coach Middle Grades Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
3. Arnst, April - Assistant Coach Middle Grades Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
4. Baldwin, Bret - Assistant Coach District Middle School Basketball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
5. Brown, Megan – Head Coach District Middle School Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Staff
6. Cain, Matthew – Head Coach JV Wrestling, SMHS – New Non-Staff
7. Callaway, Molly – Head Coach Women’s Basketball, SCES – Returning Staff
8. Carter, Scott – Head Coach Swim, SMHS – New Non-Staff
9. Clark, Hannah – Head Coach Cheer, FES – New Non-Staff
10. Danner, Shane – Assistant Coach Women’s Basketball, FES – New Non-Staff
11. Davidson, Todd – Head Coach Indoor Track, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
12. Edwards, Mason – Assistant Coach Men’s Basketball, CVES – New Non-Staff
13. Floyd, Andrea – Assistant Coach District Middle School Women’s Basketball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
14. Hamilton, Nicole – Head Coach Cheer, CVES – New Non-Staff
15. Howell, Josh – Assistant Coach Men’s Basketball, FES – New Non-Staff
16. Irons, Clinton – Head Coach Men’s Basketball, SCES – Returning Staff
17. Kanupp, Sydney – Assistant Coach Cheer, CVES – Returning Staff
18. Larch, Catherine – Head Coach District Middle School Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Staff
19. Lathers, Claire – Assistant Coach Women’s Basketball, SCES – New Staff
20. Long, Michelle – Assistant Coach Cheer, SCES – Returning Staff

21. Madden, James - Assistant Coach Varsity Men's Basketball, BREC – New Non-Staff
22. McFalls, Chris – Assistant Coach District Middle School Wrestling, SMHS – New Non-Staff
23. McFalls, Nicole – Assistant Coach Cheer, FES – New Staff
24. Murphy, Ronda – Head Coach Cheer, SCES – Returning Staff
25. Patten, DaQuan – Assistant Coach JV Men's Basketball, SMHS – Returning Staff
26. Porter, William – Assistant Coach Men's Basketball, SCES – Returning Staff
27. Richards, Keith – Head Coach District Middle School Wrestling, SMHS – Returning Staff
28. Russell, William – Head Coach Middle Grades Men's Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
29. Steinel, Ashley – Head Coach Middle Grades Volleyball, BREC – Returning Staff
30. Steinel, Ashley – Assistant Coach Varsity Women's Basketball, BREC – Returning Staff
31. Stewart, Anna - Assistant Coach Varsity Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
32. Stewart, Anna – Head Coach Middle Grades Women's Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff

Special Requests: Leave of Absence:

1. Joyner, Alexandria – Teacher, CVES
2. Roth, Natalie – School Counselor, SCES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is December 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at Smoky Mountain High School, 100 Smoky Mountain High School, Sylva, North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary